

REGULAR MEETING**RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL****AUGUST 26, 2015**

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve McCorkle, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Gerald Mohr called the regular meeting to order.

A public hearing on the 2016 budget was conducted at 9:00a.m. Gerald Mohr asked if there were comments from the floor on the Rush County General or Solid Waste Budget. Hearing none, Councilman Mohr entertained a motion from Steve McCorkle to close the public hearing. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the July 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Executive Meeting on August 10th were approved with Janet Kile initiating the motion and Warren Norris offering a seconded. Motion carried.

SUVERYOR

Leigh Morning presented a resolution authorizing loans for the Samuel Cohee Drain on behalf of the Surveyor. Marvin Hedrick moved to approve the resolution and Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Judge Brian Hill requested an amended salary ordinance for the employees of the Community Corrections department. Surplus grant funds were awarded to Rush County based on performance of their program. The Community Corrections Board recommended salary increases for those employees. Warren Norris moved to approve the amended salary ordinance. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey requested a transfer of \$750 to purchase a new validator for tax collections. Charles Smith moved to allow the transfer from Statement Processing to Computer Printer. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Mary Ann Bridges reported a new legislative law that exempts personal property assessment under \$20,000 but the taxpayer must file a notarized affidavit each year. The County Council may adopt an ordinance charging a flat fee not to exceed \$50 to those that file an affidavit and a fine of \$25 will be assessed if no affidavit is filed. Scott Barnes moved to create an ordinance charging \$50. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marge Amos appeared to request authorization to fill the Health Department clerk vacancy created by the transfer of Terri Nigh to the Environmental Specialist position. Marvin Hedrick moved to allow the request. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried. There is a current practice that Office Holders and Supervisors must seek permission of the Commissioners and Council to fill any department vacancy. This requirement is not in the personnel policy. Gerald Mohr stated that the supervisor should be allowed to manager their own budget. Marvin Hedrick moved to rescind the policy that requires permission to hire employees previously approved in the budget. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton submitted a request for additional appropriations in the amount of \$221,000. Sitton would like to replace his 1990 skid loader with a 3640 model at a cost of \$21,000. In order to complete the chip and seal process in summer construction, Mr. Sitton is asking that \$200,000 in highway funds be appropriated. Steve McCorkle moved to approve the additional appropriations. Janet Kile seconded the action. Motion carried.

Construction on the Carthage Pike should be completed by the end of the month. Carthage Town Board has asked for financial assistance to restore 5th St. which sustained heavy usage during the Carthage Pike project. Sitton stated that this could require another additional appropriation request.

Sitton also reported that an underground storage tank behind the jail is being removed by K & W Fueling Systems.

CLERK

Debbie Richardson Clerk requested an additional \$75 in startup cash for traffic court which would give each cash drawer an additional \$25 to make change for customers. Warren Norris moved to allow the unappropriated county general expenditure. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Nick White president of the Fire Chiefs Association presented a letter of thanks for the support the association has received from the County and the updates to the communication system at the jail.

Redevelopment Commission Reports

Auditor Mary Ann Beard, treasurer of the Rush County Redevelopment Commission presented the report on activities of the Milroy Industrial Corridor as required by the Department of Local Government Finance dated July 30th, also reviewed were the Financial Report to the Council dated June 30th and the Activities of the Commission for 2014 dated March 15th. The City of Rushville Redevelopment Commission and the Rush County

Redevelopment Commission reported no “excess assessed value” within the deadline of July 10th.

HERITAGE BARN

The following ordinance establishing a public safety fee for heritage barn deductions was approved on a motion by Scott Barnes. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CAGIT TAX/JAIL

The newly proposed .60% for CAGIT (county adjusted gross income tax) for the construction of a new jail must be adopted by November 1st for collection on January 1st. The revenue is estimated at 15.6 million dollars and the term of the bond is 20 years. The additional increase in local income tax would range from \$150 per year for a \$25,000 State taxable income to \$600 a year for a taxable income of \$100,000. It was determined that the CAGIT rate may be reduced accordingly based on the construction costs for the jail and that courtroom renovations will not be funded by CAGIT funds. Charles Smith moved to table action on the adoption of a CAGIT rate until the October meeting. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried with Steve McCorkle offering the only dissenting vote.

APEX ABATEMENT

The Council reviewed the abatement report prepared by Umbaugh in the event that APEX would request abatement. There were several scenarios with a combination of tax abatement and economic development payments. Gordon Hall shared his opinion that one option should be to say “no” to an abatement request and that abatement should not be considered until the lawsuit against the BZA is settled. Others spoke of the depreciation schedule, the steady decline in the county’s population, no exit plan, and the results when APEX sells the windfarm.

Scott Barnes requested additional information on the Umbaugh study.

Marvin Hedrick moved that the abatement study be taken under advisement. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan submitted his inmate report showing 44 inmates currently incarcerated. Courthouse security officers performed a test on the panic buttons in the courthouse. A template for the new 800 MHz radios is being developed.

Cowan reported the desperate situation of 911 consoles that have outlived their life expectancy. Representatives of Owens Communications were present to present a proposal to replace the aging consoles. Marvin Hedrick moved to proceed with an additional appropriation to fund the consoles from the 911 fund not to exceed \$300,000. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANDERSON TWP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Becky Puckett of Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department reported that the department, the Amish Community, and the Township raised \$28,600 in funds to purchase a Zoll X-series heart monitor.

DATA PITSTOP

Marvin Hedrick made a motion that the financial services of Darren Bates of Data Pitstop be retained for 1 year. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Scott Barnes
Scott Barnes

/s/ Steve McCorkle
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor